

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-2, 4-8, 10-14, 16-20, 22-24, 26-28 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *Shiota et al.* (U.S. 2002/0034336). Claims 3, 9, 15, 21, 25 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Shiota et al.* (U.S. 2002/0034336) in view of Itagaki (US Patent 5,553,164). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Specifically, the cited art, alone or on combination, does not disclose the look-up table configuration recited in the present claims. While the Office Action recites LUT 60 in *Shiota* as the second look-up table (LUT) that is based on the first LUT and human visual characteristics (as recited in claims 1, 7, 13, 19, 23 and 27), the supporting text makes clear that this is not the case. In paragraph [0167], the unsharp image information created by the LPF 58 is supplied to the third LUT 60 (which has a function similar to that of the LUT 59 shown in FIG. 1) and subjected to a dynamic range compressing process thereat. The dynamic range compressing process is carried out by using a dynamic range compressing table. Paragraphs [0168]-[0172] further discuss the operation of the compression table in cooperation with LUT 60, but it becomes clear from these passages that LUT 60 is not based on a "first" LUT, but instead relies on a different compression table during its formation.

Accordingly, *Shiota* also does not disclose generating a third LUT by combining the first and second LUT's according to a predetermined combining ratio as recited in claim 1 and 13. The adder 66 obtains unsharp image information (wherein the adder 66 has a function similar to that of the subtraction means 61 shown in FIG. 1) and acts as subtracting means ([0172]). The adder 66 subtracts the unsharp image information from the main image information which has been processed by the first MTX 54 and directly supplied to the adder 66 so as to give an effect wherein a portion having an intermediate image density remains as it is and the image density of only the bright portion and/or the dark portion is adjusted to the obtained image information ([0172]). This clearly shows that *Shiota* also does not disclose generating a third LUT by combining the first and second LUT's according to a predetermined combining ratio, but instead relies on a matrix subtraction method for adjusting image information.

Also, *Shiota* is silent regarding a “visual characteristic” as recited in the independent claims. An examples of this characteristic is described in the specification on page 7, first two paragraphs, and page 8, first paragraph, through page 9, second line. The Office Action does not indicate what references in *Shiota* purportedly teach this element.

Furthermore, it follows that *Shiota* does not disclose “transforming the image data using the second look-up table” as recited in claims 19, 23 and 27 for the same reasons discussed above.

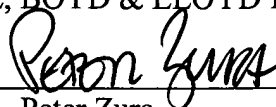
In addition to the above arguments, *Itagaki* does not solve the deficiencies of *Shiota*. *Itagaki* discloses a method for compressing and extending an image by transforming orthogonally and encoding an image used in facsimile and television-telephone sets (col. 1, lines 19-30; col. 2, lines 24-30). The quantization table and encoding table described therein bears no relation to the LUT’s disclosed in *Shiota*, and operate to solve a problem that is wholly unrelated to the teaching of *Shiota*. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the combination is improper and should be withdrawn. The mere fact that references can be combined or modified does not render the resultant combination obvious unless the prior art also suggests the desirability of the combination (MPEP 2143.01) The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, not in the applicant’s disclosure (MPEP 2143).

In light of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-30 of the present application are both novel and non-obvious over the art of record. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103 be withdrawn and a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If any fees are due in connection with this application as a whole, the Examiner is authorized to deduct such fees from deposit account no. 02-1818. If such a deduction is made, please indicate the attorney docket number (112857-298) on the account statement.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

BY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Zura", is written over a horizontal line.

Peter Zura

Reg. No. 48,196

P.O. Box 1135

Chicago, Illinois 60690-1135

Phone: (312) 807-4208

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